GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2702
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
DEMONSTRATION CENTRES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has set up demonstration Centres of food irradiation technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any demand for this technology from farmers or agrigultural markets in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the scope for making this technology commercially viable?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) Demonstration plants for radiation processing of food have been set up in the country. Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology(BRIT) has set up a plant forradiation processing of spices at Vashi, New Mumbai. BARC is setting up a plant at Lasalgaon, Nasik District for processing food products like potatoes, onions, garlic, ginger, mango, dried raisins, semolina and wheat atta. The plant is expected to be commissioned by the end of the current year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a wide scope for commercial deployment of this technology. Flexible approach to make this technology available to private, co-operative and government agencies is being adopted to facilitate early commercialisation.